



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:

*Safeguarding
Hoosiers by
Planning,
Preparing and
Responding*

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THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2007

New Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) Arrives in Indiana

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security put the state's new Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) on display recently at the Boswell Armory in Benton County.

The DPMU is the latest result of Indiana's ongoing efforts to ensure that all aspects of emergency response and recovery are adequately addressed.

In recent years, Indiana has suffered 11 mass fatality incidents that claimed a combined total of more than 500 victims. A mass fatality incident is any event that exceeds a local Coroner's capabilities.

Before the new DPMU became a reality, state and local officials had to depend on outside resources to assist with the recovery, identification and final disposition of victims. This was problematic because of the fact that mortuary resources for large scale incidents are limited.



Above: X-Ray equipment is part of Indiana's new Disaster Portable Morgue Unit that was displayed recently at the Boswell Armory in Benton County

Also, any type of event that would involve more than one state or location would greatly deplete any available disaster mortuary supplies and personnel.

In addition to the equipment,

the DPMU team also includes Coroners, Funeral Directors, Pathologists, Anthropologists, Law Enforcement Technicians, specialized X-Ray Technicians, DNA Specialists, Administrative

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From the Desk of Director Dietz

For several years, we have been hearing about the importance of interoperable communications. It represents one of the major methods we can use to achieve the first goal in the Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security, which is teamwork. Obviously, if communication barriers exist as various agencies are trying to respond to a real-world event, it becomes much more difficult to coordinate activities and respond as a team.

For that reason, IDHS continues to support the Project Hoosier SAFE-T initiative to create a

statewide, interoperable, wireless communications system for local, state and federal first responders and public safety officials.

We still have work to do, but it is gratifying to hear stories about how this system is already demonstrating its value. In another part of this newsletter, you will read about a Town Marshall in Gibson County that utilized his 800 MHz radio while responding to a serious traffic accident.

While we normally associate interoperable communications with a mass casualty event, we

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FY 07 Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance Released

The 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) will award more than \$1.6 billion to enhance the ability of states, territories, and urban areas to prepare for, prevent, and respond to terrorist attacks and other major disasters. HSGP funds can be used for preparedness planning, equipment acquisition, training, exercises, management, and administration in order to obtain resources that are critical to building and sustaining capabilities that are aligned with the Interim National Preparedness Goal and respective State and Urban Area Homeland Security Strategies.

The HSGP includes five distinct programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)

Indiana is eligible to compete for part of the \$1.6 billion federal allocation. Currently, the IDHS Planning Division is in the beginning stages of coordinating efforts for Indiana's submission of the FY2007 HSGP application. Similar to last year, both Indiana and the Indianapolis Urban area can submit up to 15

investments, each consisting of one or more project for funding consideration.

The application submission will focus on five primary IDHS goals:

- Regionalization
- Communications
- Intelligence Information and Sharing
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Training

The FY 2007 HSGP guidance can be found on the US DHS Office of Grants and Training Website:

(http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_programs.htm).

DPMU Displayed *cont'd from pg. 1*

and Records Specialists, and a variety of support personnel with skills ranging from logistics and maintenance to electricians and plumbers.

The unit will not only serve Indiana, but can also, at the request of the Director of Indiana Homeland Security and the Governor, be made available to any state or municipality that may be in need of assistance.



Left and below: Indiana's new Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) includes stations for fingerprinting, dental records, and DNA analysis.

The DPMU can be used by state and local officials to assist with the recovery, identification and final disposition of victims following a mass fatality incident.





January EMA Spotlight...

JOHNSON COUNTY

Forrest "Tug" Sutton is the Director of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency. Sutton's background includes 25 years as a firefighter/EMT, 13 years with Eli Lilly and Company, and 8 years as Johnson County Coroner.

Sutton became the part-time EMA Director in October of 1999, and began as full-time Director on January 1, 2006. Sutton attended Center Grove High School and Indiana Central College, and is working towards completion of the PEM requirements.

While the coordination of response, recovery and planning issues for Johnson County remains the focus of Sutton's responsibilities, Johnson County EMA has also accomplished the following:

- Coordinating, planning, and prioritizing grant funding by meeting with

response agencies to determine how best to spend the funding. Major items purchased include a mobile command vehicle, communications equipment, Decon trailer, detection equipment, and a Hazard Materials Response Trailer.

- Worked with local veterinarians to set up one of the first Animal Rescue Disaster Teams in the state.
- Developed and trained 4 CERT teams with 50 members.
- Worked with the CAP and RACES teams during disasters and special events.
- Taking an active role in the District 5 teams.
- Worked with the local Health Department on Pan Flu Planning.
- Hosted and participated in several exercises.
- Updated all plans and procedures.
- Completed an update of all county resources.
- Completed all requirements to become a StormReady county.
- Led efforts to get more sirens in unincorporated parts of the county.
- Completed 198 hours of continuing education and training in 2006 alone.
- Worked with the NWS to provide yearly Storm Spotter training.
- Developed Strategic Business Plan, Hazard Analysis, Mitigation Plan, and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for Johnson County.



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IDHS Names New Emergency Response Director

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security recently announced Greg Dhaene as the new Director of the IDHS Emergency Response Division.

Dhaene began his new duties on January 8.

Dhaene comes to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security with more than 28 years of law enforcement experience. He most recently served as a two-term

Sheriff of LaGrange County in Northeast Indiana. Prior to that, he spent more than 20 years in a variety of capacities with the Indiana State Police before retiring.

"Greg brings a wealth of experience to his new role here with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security," said IDHS Executive Director Eric Dietz. "Hoosiers should feel confident that future events will be responded to quickly and effectively under Greg's

leadership."

The Emergency Response Division is responsible for assisting local emergency response leaders at major or complex emergencies or disasters. The Division also assists individuals and local jurisdictions with recovery from disasters, in addition to coordinating mitigation programs to reduce the impact of future disasters on a community.



Above: Greg Dhaene assumed his new role as IDHS Division of Emergency Response Director on January 8. He most recently served as a two-term Sheriff in LaGrange County.

New Advisory Committee Formed for Code Officials Training and Education

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Training Division has established a new Advisory Committee for Code Officials Training and Education.

The purpose of this new committee is to develop recommendations for competency based education and training programs for local and state code officials.

Among other things, this committee will participate in developing recommendations for the establishment of a state-wide voluntary certification

program for Indiana Code Officials. The committee will also provide valuable input in the establishment of degree opportunities with Indiana institutions of higher learning.

Advisory Committee members include the following:

- Donald Bradley, R.A., Indiana State Building Commissioner
- John Buckman III, C.F.O., CiFire, Indiana Firefighter Training Section Chief, IDHS Training Division
- Jim Gerstbauer, C.B.O., Indiana Association of Building Officials
- Steve Gray, Fire Inspectors Association of Indiana
- Brenda Kendrick, C.B.O., Fire & Building Code Training Manager, IDHS Training Division
- Bill Newgent, Indiana Fire Chiefs Association
- Marlys Pedtke, Indiana Builders Association
- Bradley Thatcher, IDHS Training Division Assistant Director
- John Weesner, C.B.O., Indiana Chapter, International Association of Electrical Inspectors

For more information on the Code Officials Training and Education Advisory Committee, contact Brenda Kendrick with the IDHS Training Division at 317-232-1406 or at: bkendrick@dhs.in.gov.

Donated FedEx Aircraft to be Used for Training at Camp Atterbury

With the help of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, there is a new training resource now stationed at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in Johnson County.

A Fokker F27 aircraft was recently donated by FedEx to Purdue University. Purdue decided to locate the plane at Camp Atterbury to be used for various military and IDHS training initiatives.

The official transfer occurred in late December, when FedEx had the aircraft flown from its previous home at Mountain Air Cargo in North Carolina, a subsidiary of FedEx.

The aircraft is currently stationed at a parking pad on the ramp of the Camp Atterbury airfield until a final plan is drawn up for a counter-terrorism training area on the installation.



Above: The Fokker F27 aircraft that was donated by FedEx to Purdue University lands at the Camp Atterbury airfield. The aircraft will be available for a variety of training uses at Camp Atterbury.

Conducting Live Fire Training Safely

(Editors Note: Some of the following information is excerpted from the report developed by the University of Maryland Center for Firefighter Safety Research and Development and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.)

When you decide to develop a drill where live fire will be used as part of the training you are expected to comply with the NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions (2002 edition).

There is not an Indiana law that requires compliance with NFPA 1403 but the "Standard" provides solid, consistent guidance on who, what, how, where and when you conduct live fire training evolutions. The "Standard" was developed as a result of a firefighter line of duty death in 1988 to improve our ability to safely operate at a live fire training evolution.

Live fire training is not something that can be taken lightly. There are numerous preparation steps that must be taken even before live fire training can begin. Variance requests must be made with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). IDEM has environmental protection requirements that include the removal of shingles, demolition permits, and an asbestos inspection. Fire Departments with a permanent burn facility should also obtain a permit from IDEM.

The purpose of the "Standard" is to ensure that all firefighters who participate in the live fire training session are safe and that "Everyone Goes Home".

The "Standard" is applied regardless of whether the live fire training is conducted in an acquired structure or in a training center burn building.

Before beginning any live fire training evolutions a visual inspection shall occur to observe and document structural damage in accordance with the established procedures. The structural integrity of the building should be evaluated before the fire is ignited.

All equipment necessary for conducting live fire training evolutions shall be operated before any evolution begins to ensure its proper operation.

During all training session evolutions, the safety of participants shall be a paramount consideration. Safe training evolutions require careful consideration and planning on the part of the lead instructor.

Each year there are 5 or more deaths related to training. Gordon Graham states in his motivating safety presentations; "If it is predictable, It is preventable". Many of the training deaths can be directly attributed to not following the guidelines as outlined in the "Standard".

During live fire training evolutions NFPA 1403 requires a student to instructor ratio not greater than five to one. At a minimum it is expected that there will be an instructor in charge, an instructor with the primary hose team, an instructor with the backup team, and two interior instructors to ready the fires and one safety officer. The complexity of the evolution will dictate whether more instructors are needed.

Before any training begins, a training plan should be developed and all participants must be briefed on the plan, the evolutions to be conducted, and crew assignments shall be made. All participants are required to take part in a familiarization walkthrough prior to beginning any live fire training. During the walkthrough, the building's layout and evacuation procedures will be observed.

As part of the safety plan, a communications plan shall be established to coordinate among the instructors and with the safety officer. Also, an evacuation plan needs to include the appropriate method of sounding the evacuation signal. All personnel shall be informed of the designated evacuation signal and the need for **IMMEDIATE** evacuation of the structure.

It is expected that the instructor-in charge will ensure an adequate water supply and sufficiently staffed attack lines and backup lines. Water supply is critical to ensuring that the fire is controlled so that firefighters can experience the desired training. The "Standard" requires a reserve water supply that is equal to 50% of the fire flow water supply.

The development and designation of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) should be included as part of the planning process.

The Incident Management System provides the organizational structure for managing all live fire training events. The instructor-in charge shall develop a command structure that assigns personnel to



be part of the command team.

Finally, personnel accountability is a crucial element of the safety component of training evolutions. During any evolution in which a participant could become disoriented, lost, or trapped an accountability system shall be established and strictly followed. The designation of a "point of entry" system tracking personnel in the hazard zone shall utilize a log-in and log-out.

Maintaining discipline at a live fire training event is a critical aspect. All participants must be held to an extremely high standard of discipline. All participants are expected to follow the training plan without "freelancing." The leadership must enforce the plan and the rules. No deviation from the standard of care can be allowed.

A hard and fast rule should be followed that **prevents the use of live persons** to act as trapped or disoriented firefighters or civilians. This really should be common sense on the part of the training session.

This article is designed to increase your awareness of some of the applicable NFPA standards and other requirements. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Training encourages all agencies and personnel who are engaged in live fire training to obtain a copy of the NFPA 1403 standard.

Written by Chief John M. Buckman III,
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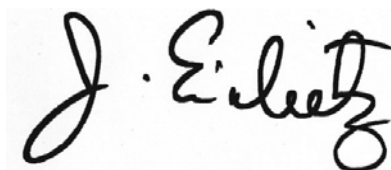
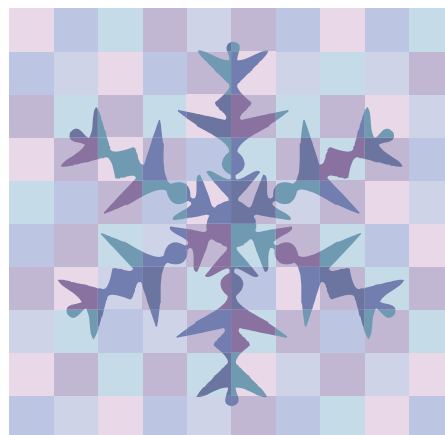
From the Desk of Director Dietz cont'd from pg. 1

must also recognize how such a system can be useful in a comparatively smaller, but equally important incident.

It's easy to get caught up in the amount of money that has been committed and will continue to be committed in creating this capability. But the fact that a life was possibly saved in Gibson County due in large part to this system goes well beyond any discussion of funding.

As we continue to move forward in developing a system that will eliminate

all of the barriers to interoperable communications that still exist, let's not forget the overarching goal - to create the capability to respond to any event as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Warning Issued to Emergency Services Sector Regarding Vehicle and Apparatus Thefts

The Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) has observed that vehicle and apparatus thefts continue to plague first responder organizations throughout the nation's Emergency Services Sector (ESS).

These thefts often result in serious damage and an occasional disruption in services. Therefore, the EMR-ISAC notes that when the vehicular component of their internal critical infrastructures is degraded, ESS departments and agencies face a greater challenge attempting to remain fully "response-able."

Typical response activities take place under fast-paced, stress-filled conditions in situations where emergency vehicles and apparatus cannot be visually monitored for periods of time. Theft records substantiate that thieves, the mentally unstable, substance-impaired individuals, pranksters, and other persons exploit the unattended and/or unsecured status of responder vehicles to steal, "borrow," or test-drive (e.g., joyride).

Emergency vehicles that feature keyless ignition systems are easier theft targets because "hot wiring" is unnecessary.

Recently, a teenager easily started a large, extremely expensive fire apparatus using its mechanical buttons and drove away while firefighters were engaged indoors. The young driver later failed to negotiate a turn, landed the truck sideways, and slid a short distance. With repair costs close to the price of a new rig, city officials struggle with the dilemma of whether to repair or replace the damaged 44-foot long vehicle. Regardless, until a decision is made, the apparatus is unavailable.

Unofficial research indicates that emergency vehicles are stolen more often during shift changes, and while idling near hospital emergency rooms and at incident scenes. Records also show that perpetrators have even forced their way into unoccupied stations to "liberate" emergency vehicles and apparatus.

While the thefts themselves are a crime against responder organizations, the long-term consequences include the degradation of physical infrastructure and monetary losses no emergency organization can afford. Considering this ongoing problem, the EMR-ISAC suggests ESS leaders, owners, and operators review their standard operating procedures and guidelines to promote practices that eliminate vulnerabilities and protect their vehicles and apparatus from thievery.



Information provided courtesy of
www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com



Interoperable Communications Success Story

On December 19, 2006, an 800MHz radio was delivered to Haubstadt Town Marshall Ken Wells by Gibson County EMA Director Terry Hedges.

Later that evening while on patrol, Wells observed an explosion and upon investigating found that a vehicle had struck a utility pole. The vehicle became inverted after being airborne and ejected the driver. The driver was found face down in mud and water and Wells quickly administered aid.

Wells tried to call his dispatch with the current radio, but without success. That's when he remembered that he had a new 800MHz radio and utilized it.

It worked perfectly!

He was heard on the first try and spoke to emergency agencies responding as well as LifeFlight. The driver of the vehicle involved in the accident sustained multiple injuries, but survived the incident.

Marshall Wells is to be commended for his actions and the "interoperability" has already paid for itself in Gibson County

Information provided by Gibson County EMA Director Terry Hedges.

Improve Your Presentation Skills

By understanding your unique presentation strengths, those intrinsic qualities that never change, you can begin building delivery skills that will set you apart from the crowd.

To find your strengths, listen to what people say about your presentation. Think about which parts of the presentation seem effortless to you. Ask a colleague or a coach to videotape you so you can see for yourself where your unique strengths lie. Maybe you have strengths such as these:

- A strong, warm, or especially expressive voice.
- A friendly smile or an animated face.
- Strong, fluent hand gestures.
- Powerful eye contact.
- A keen sense of humor.
- The ability to put your audience at ease.
- The ability to explain concepts clearly.
- The desire to help your audience understand.

Once you find your strengths, play them up. For example, if you tend to have wonderful gestures, don't lock your hands together; instead, keep them free so you are more likely to use them. If you have a wonderful, warm smile, don't hide it behind a serious or

tense-looking face.

While you are reviewing your videotape, check to see how well your basic delivery skills are serving you. You can use this checklist to evaluate yourself:

Stance

Stand firmly on both feet, so that you look strong, balanced and steady. Be sure your knees are not locked, and that you are not swaying from side to side. If you move around, be sure you move purposefully, and plant your feet whenever you stop moving. Pacing randomly looks like you are anxious or out of control, so make sure your movements are slow and steady.

Posture

Look for a combination of relaxed (but not too casual) and alert posture. Stand tall, with your shoulders relaxed, your rib cage held up from your waist, and your head steady, not tipped, or bobbing. Don't stiffen your spine or your shoulders, or you will appear tense.

Hand Positions

Keep your hands as natural and open as you can, not locked together, or jammed into your pockets. The most difficult position is having your hands relaxed and at your sides; if this is too difficult, try placing your hands lightly together at waist level. Avoid having anything in your hands, if you can.

Voice

Breathe to keep your voice strong, open

your mouth wide enough to improve enunciation. Speak a tiny bit louder and a tiny bit slower than you would one-on-one. Check for distracting habits-clearing your throat or too many "ums".

Face

Look for facial expressions that reflect what you are saying. When you greet your audience, smile warmly. When you speak of important issues, your face should look concerned but not tense or tight. Watch out for tension in your eyes or eyebrows, or a facial expression that seems frozen.

Eye contact

Instead of scanning the audience, move your eyes smoothly and steadily around the room, looking at each person in the audience for 3-5 seconds at a time. Guard against darting eyes, and looking at just one or two people. Think of connecting with each person, one at a time. Use a trusted friend, a coach or videotape feedback to assess your current delivery skills, and then work to build your skills while highlighting your natural strengths.

Building presentation skills is a marathon, not a sprint, so take your time, go easy on yourself, and keep moving ahead. With time and patience, you can become a stronger, more effective presenter.

Written by Chief John M. Buckman III, Indiana Firefighter Training Section. You can contact Chief Buckman at jbuckman@dhs.in.gov.

Integrated Public Safety Commission Training Sessions to Begin in February

The Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) will be conducting regional monthly meetings beginning in February. These meetings are for all users of the system and will provide the opportunity for an open dialogue pertaining to the state's 800 MHz voice and data system. Please inform all public safety personnel in your area as to this availability. The locations, dates and times for 2007 are as follows:

Note: All of the meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 1:00–4:00pm (local time). Please contact the IPSC Network Operating Center at 317-234-1540 for additional information.

Greenwood Greenwood Police Department Training Center 746 Lowes Blvd.	Evansville Vanderburgh County EMA 708 Stanley Avenue	Logansport Cass Co. Sheriff's Department 100 Court Park	Jeffersonville American Commercial Barge Lines 1st Floor EOC 1701 E. Market Street.
February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23
June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
July 4—No Meeting	July 11	July 18	July 25
August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22
September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24
November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28

Indiana Workshops Scheduled for 2007 DHS Assistance to Firefighter Grants

Dates, times and locations have been set for the 2007 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Workshops throughout Indiana. No reservations are necessary. The workshop schedule is below. (Note: All times listed are local)

Tuesday, February 20	Thursday, February 22	Monday, February 26	Wednesday, February 28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—Chesterton FD 7:00pm—Goshen FD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—Carmel FD 7:00pm—New Castle FD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—Terre Haute FD 7:00pm—Bloomington Twp FD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—Clarksville FD 7:00pm—Tell City FD
Wednesday, February 21	Saturday, February 24	Tuesday, February 27	Thursday, March 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—New Haven/Adams Twp FD 7:00pm—Russiaville FD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—Monticello FD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—Batesville FD 7:00pm—Seymour FD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm—German Twp. FD 7:00pm—Washington FD

Safe Operations of Fire Department Tankers

(Editors Note: Some of the information contained within this article is excerpted from the FEMA/ U.S. Fire Administration Report on Safe Operation of Fire Tankers.)

The firefighter at their core has a keen desire to help others in their time of distress. It is this desire to help that sometimes leads to decisions that may increase the risk to firefighters and civilians.

Our role as a firefighter has expanded to include emergency medical care, hazardous materials control and containment and rescue from a variety of accidents including motor vehicle accidents.

The firefighter of today responds to more non-fire emergencies than they do fires. This does not make firefighting operations secondary, but it does require fire service leadership to focus on the tools and apparatus that are used less frequently to insure that they are suitable and safe for use.

The firefighter responds to the emergency. Rarely is the emergency delivered to our fire station. We use fire apparatus of varying size and types to transport tools, equipment, water and personnel to the scene of the emergency. We are in the service delivery business.

Because of the nature of our business we have need to respond with urgency. It is our stated goal to respond as quickly and safely as possible. Emergency responders are given many liberties that are not afforded other members of the driving public. Emergency vehicles are equipped with warning devices that signal other drivers to clear the way. Emergency vehicles are given the option of continuing through intersections when other vehicles must heed a signal to stop. In some cases, emergency vehicles are even allowed to travel against the normal flow of traffic or at speeds above the posted limits.

Apparatus crashes that occur when responding to or returning from emergency incidents are historically the second leading cause of firefighter deaths in the United States. Each year approximately 25 percent of all firefighters deaths are attributed to appa-

ratus crashes.

When reviewing the statistics regarding fire apparatus crashes, it becomes very apparent that a disproportionately high number of these crashes involve fire department tanker apparatus. The vast majority of the deaths are members of the volunteer fire service.

The cause of fire apparatus crashes can be catalogued into one of five categories:

- Improper backing of the apparatus
- Reckless driving by the public
- Excessive speed by the fire apparatus driver
- Lack of driving skill and experience by the fire apparatus driver
- Poor apparatus design or maintenance

There are a number of sub-factors within each of these categories that are worthy of exploration. The FEMA/US Fire Administration report loosely categorizes these causal factors into five broad classifications:

1. Human Factors
2. Apparatus Design Factors
3. Driving Surface Factors
4. Emergency Scene Factors
5. Other Factors

Insufficient Training

Perhaps the most unfortunate human factor associated with fire department tanker crashes is a driver who has not been appropriately trained to drive that type of apparatus.

All drivers must complete a thorough training program before being allowed to drive a fire department tanker under non-emergency or emergency conditions. The training needed prior to driving the apparatus on a public roadway includes a combination of classroom and practical instruction. The student driver should demonstrate the ability to operate the tanker on a controlled driving before being allowed to begin test drives on public roadways.

Seatbelt Use

Any discussion relative to safety issues as they affect tanker crashes would not be

complete if the issue of passenger restraint or seatbelt use were not reviewed. While the failure of the tanker driver and/or occupants to wear seatbelts is rarely established to be the *cause* of a crash, it is often a factor in the *severity* of the *outcome* of the crash.

There are case histories and statistics that depict instances where failure to wear a seatbelt was listed as a cause for a crash. Some reconstruction specialists have speculated that particular incidents may have occurred after the unrestrained driver of a truck was bounced out of an effective driving position following the initial contact with a bump in the road or another object. In other cases, the driver came out of the seat after an over-corrective action to return a truck to the roadway after the right side wheels had slipped off the edge. No records of this being the primary causal factor in a fire department tanker accident have ever been documented.

On numerous occasions, the failure to wear seatbelts has been determined to be a significant factor in the death of the tanker driver and/or occupant(s). The facts show, tanker drivers and/or occupants being seriously injured or killed after being partially or totally ejected from the vehicle following a crash is a common theme.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have been compiling data and statistics on seatbelt use for more than 30 years. While they have not reported data specific for fire department tankers, or any fire apparatus for that matter, the information they have reported on all types of vehicles should be considered relevant for fire apparatus.

You can download the entire FEMA/US Fire Administration report on Safe Operation of Fire Tankers at the IDHS State Firefighter Training System Web site.

Written by Chief John M. Buckman III, Indiana Firefighter Training Section. You can contact Chief Buckman at jbuckman@dhs.in.gov.

Mark Your Calendar

February 7

Counter Terrorism and Security Council
10:30am (EST)
Indiana Government Center—South
Conference Room C

February 7

Ind. Intelligence Fusion Center Meeting
1:15pm (EST)
Indiana Government Center—South
Conference Room C

February 14

Code Review Committees Meeting
9:00am (EST)
Indianapolis Government Center—South
Conference Room 10

March 7

Code Review Committees Meeting
9:00am (EST)
Indianapolis Government Center—South
Conference Room 10

March 7

Counter Terrorism and Security Council
10:30am (EST)
Indiana Government Center—South
Conference Rooms 4 & 5

March 7

Ind. Intelligence Fusion Center Meeting
1:15pm (EST)
Indiana Government Center—South
Conference Rooms 4 & 5

March 12

Ind. Emergency Response Commission
1:00pm (EST)
Indiana Government Center—South
Conference Room 18

March 16

Emergency Medical Services Commission
10:00am (EST)
Plainfield Recreation/Aquatics Center—
Rooms 139 A & B
651 Vestal Road, Plainfield



Check out IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar for all training opportunities at:

www.in.gov/dhs/training

Please welcome to IDHS...

Nicole Baker, Support Services Division

Greg Dhaene, Emergency Response Division

Billy Null, Training Division

Clint Schelle, Training Division

Melissa VanLue, Training Division



*Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Safeguarding Hoosiers by
Planning, Preparing and Responding*

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Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-3980 / 800-669-7362*

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at 317-232-6632.